THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) It is not a fact that the tea producers in the country are facing difficulties to sell their produce due to the introduction of the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 and directives issued thereunder regarding changes in auction rules. The Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 and the changes in auction rules were notified based on the recommendations of a reputed consultancy firm who conducted a study of the primary marketing of tea in India. The objective of the study was to safeguard the legitimate interests of the producers as well as buyers, keeping in view the overall aim of strengthening the primary system of marketing of tea through auctions in terms of transparency and fair price discovery. These measures have been widely welcomed by all sections of the producers, big and small and all the tea growing states. Some tea gardens in the country have, over the last few years, faced closure due to the continuous fall in prices of tea, and increased cost of production. These factors have adversely affected the economy of the tea plantations. The Tea (Marketing) Control Order 2003 is designed to address this problem. After some disruptions initially, the new regime and auction system have settled down with improved transparency and price discovery.

(b) Does not arise.

Environmental safety measures by industries

†1100. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give special incentives to the industries adopting reusable and environment friendly safety measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to give special incentives to the industries adopting

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

reusable and environment friendly safety measures. However, paper mills adopting recycling and using non-conventional raw materials are entitled to concessional excise and customs duty. Paper and Paper-board produced by using more than 75% non-conventional raw material has been exempted from payment of excise duty upto first clearance of 3500 M.T. per annum. Import of waste paper by paper mills is also allowed at a concessional rate of 5% basic customs duty.

Price stabilisation fund for plantation sector

1101. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a high level Committee to look into the creation of a Price Stabilisation Fund for the plantation sector;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(c) if so, the recommendations of the Committee and the status of implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On the basis of the recommendations of the Committee the Government has approved the setting up of a Price Stabilisation Fund for the benefit of the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco.

Anti-dumping proceedings of USA against Indian Steel

1102. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1649 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th March, 2002 and state:

(a) the steps Government have taken against anti-dumping proceedings of USA against Indian Steel; and

(b) the results achieved, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The initiation of anti-dumping investigation is against the pricing factor relating to the